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only to say that the form of the book—in size, typography and accuracy of proof-reading—leaves little to be desired.

HANDBOOK OF ADMIRALTY LAW. By Robert M. Hughes. St. Paul: West Publishing Co. 1901. pp. xxvii, 503.

This is another volume in the *Hornbook Series*, which seems to have proved its usefulness by the continuance of its publications. The author is a son of the sometime United States District Judge for the eastern district of Virginia, and is himself a practitioner at the admiralty bar at Norfolk. The basis of the work is stated to be a series of lectures given to the students of the Washington and Lee University during the past few years. In the preface the author remarks the scant attention given in the law schools to the subject, despite its constantly increasing importance, and suggests that the lack of a text book is probably the explanation of the neglect. Whether or not by supplying this lack the author's evident hope will be fulfilled, it is difficult to say. There is no doubt, however, of the fact that a knowledge of general admiralty principles has hitherto been a matter of acquirement subsequent to the law school instruction. Of the three leading law schools in the country, Yale and Harvard only have introduced a course on admiralty and that within the last two or three years. Columbia has yet to take this inevitable and much needed step.

As to the present volume, it is compiled on the now familiar system of the *Hornbook series*, consisting of short statements throughout the work of general principles in black letters, always more or less a blemish to a well-set-up page, accompanied by a sometimes extended commentary and notes. The latter in this instance include most of the leading cases in admiralty decided in the courts of this country. It is a matter of regret, however, that fuller reference has not been made to the English decisions which, in many instances, have furnished to us the most carefully considered reasoning on many parts of this interesting topic that the books contain. The book is admittedly elementary in its scope, and on that account the author does not hope that the specialist will find anything novel in treatment, except possibly of such topics as damages for injuries resulting in death, or damages generally. But even here, if the simile be pardoned, the author does not seem to be treading on virgin soil. Except for the long-established principle that allows apportionment of damages among two or more blameworthy parties, and the principle that contributory negligence, in personal injury cases, does not altogether preclude recovery, it is not believed that the general theory of damages in admiralty differs at all from that at the common law.

Besides the discussion of the various principles, the author has added a short chapter on pleading and practice, and has included in the appendix the mariner's compass, which probably few admiralty lawyers can box, the international rules, the inland rules, the lake rules, and others of local application, and the general admiralty rules of practice. Altogether, the book should prove extremely useful and should fill a long-felt want.

It may be remarked, in passing, however, that in tracing the origin and history of admiralty law, the author states that "the voyage of the Argonauts, the Trojan Expedition, the wanderings of Odysseus, though military in the songs of Homer, were probably as much for exploration as for conquest." This seems calculated to jar, and almost unnecessarily, the preconceived notions of chivalry and romance of many who have not been favored with access to the authorities with which this author, doubtless, is familiar, but which he does not quote.

STUDIES IN HISTORY AND JURISPRUDENCE. By James Bryce. New York: Oxford University Press. xxiii, 926.

This is a book to be welcomed equally by the student of political institutions and by the lawyer who interests himself in the philosophy and history of the law. It contains sixteen essays, in which the comparative and historical methods are applied to various topics of public and private law. Mr. Bryce informs us in the preface that some of the essays are based upon public discourses in which, while Regius Professor of Civil Law at Oxford, he dealt with "the wider and less technical aspects of his subject." And while a portion of the book may have been written at a later date, the volume generally may be regarded as the product of Mr. Bryce's activity during the period, from 1870 to 1893, when he occupied the Oxford chair of civil law. The name of the author is itself a sufficient guarantee of value in point of substance and of attractiveness in style and manner of presentation. There is probably no other person living who unites qualifications so various. To his distinguished attainments as historian and scholar and to his familiarity with both Roman and English law, Mr. Bryce adds practical experience at the bar, in Parliament and in public office, and a very exceptional knowledge, derived largely from personal observation and inquiry, of the political institutions of almost all the peoples of our own time.

As the title indicates, the book is rather a collection of studies than a systematic treatise. A number of the essays deal with public or constitutional law. In one, for example, a comparative study is made of the two types of constitutions, distinguished by Mr. Bryce as "flexible" (or common-law) and "rigid" (or statutory). In another, the action of centripetal and centrifugal forces on political constitutions is examined. Several essays deal with particular constitutions, such as those of the South African republics (prior to the war of 1899), and that of the new Australian commonwealth. One essay sketches the early political and legal institutions of Iceland. For the student of legal history Iceland affords material of exceptional interest. In Essay I the Roman empire and the British empire in India are compared and contrasted in respect to the mode of development and characteristics of each. A similar comparison between Rome and England in respect to their legal history, in different aspects, is, as will presently be noted, a prominent feature of the book and is clearly and instructively worked out.

The two essays dealing respectively with the nature of the habit of political obedience and with the idea of sovereignty are perhaps